

CLAIMS:

1. A keypad module for a portable communication device including a plurality of keys and housing having a left side, a right side, a front side, the keypad comprising:  
a keypad inlay having a left side and a right side;  
means for securing the keypad inlay to the front side of the housing; and  
means for releasing the keypad inlay from the housing;  
wherein the means for releasing the keypad inlay enables the keypad inlay to be removed from the housing by simultaneously depressing at least two of the plurality of keys.
2. The keypad module of claim 1, wherein each of the at least two of the plurality of keys actuates an electronic switch when depressed.
3. The keypad module of claim 1, wherein the means for securing the keypad inlay to front side of the housing comprises a first latch that engages a first catch.
4. The keypad module of claim 3, wherein the means for releasing the keypad inlay from the housing comprises disengaging the first latch from the first catch by depressing a first key of the plurality of keys.
5. The keypad module of claim 4, wherein the means for securing the keypad inlay to front side of the housing comprises a second latch that engages a second catch.

6. The keypad module of claim 5, wherein the means for releasing the keypad inlay from the housing comprises disengaging the second latch from the second catch by depressing a second key of the plurality of keys.
7. The keypad module of claim 6, wherein the first key comprises a send key and the second key comprises an end key.
8. The keypad module of claim 6, wherein the first and second latches are located on the keypad inlay and the first and second catches are located on the housing.
9. The keypad module of claim 1, wherein the at least two of the plurality of keys comprises a left side button located on either the left side of the housing or the left side of the keypad inlay and a right side button on either the right side of the housing or right side of the keypad inlay and the means for releasing the keypad inlay from the housing comprises simultaneously depressing the left and right side buttons.
10. The keypad module of claim 9, wherein the means for releasing the keypad inlay from the housing comprises simultaneously depressing the left and right side buttons using an off-center keystroke on both the left and right side buttons.
11. The keypad module of claim 9, wherein the means for securing the keypad inlay to the housing comprises a first arm that engages a first catch and a second arm that

engages a second catch.

12. The keypad module of claim 11, wherein the means for releasing the keypad inlay from the housing comprises disengaging the first arm from the first catch by depressing the left side key and disengaging the second arm from the second catch by depressing the right side key.

13. The keypad module of claim 12, wherein the means for releasing the keypad inlay from the housing comprises releasing the first arm from the first catch by depressing the left side key using an off-center keystroke and releasing the second arm from the second catch by depressing the right side key using an off-center keystroke.

14. The keypad module of claim 1, wherein the means for securing the keypad inlay to the front side of the housing are not visible when the keypad inlay is attached to the housing.

15. The keypad module of claim 1, wherein the at least two of the plurality of keys are located on the keypad inlay.

16. The keypad module of claim 1, wherein the at least two of the plurality of keys are built into the housing.

17. A keypad module for a portable communication device including a plurality of

keys and a housing having a left side, a right side, a front side, the keypad module comprising:

a keypad configured to be attached to the housing and having a left side and a right side; and

first and second latches that engage first and second catches located on the housing, respectively, when the keypad inlay is attached to the housing, thereby securing the keypad inlay to the housing;

wherein the first and second latches are released from the first and second catches, respectively, when at least two of the plurality of keys are simultaneously depressed, thereby releasing the keypad inlay from the housing.

18. The keypad module of claim 17, wherein each of the at least two of the plurality of keys actuates an electronic switch when depressed.

19. The keypad module of claim 17, wherein the at least two of the plurality of keys comprise a left side button located on either the left side of the housing or the left side of the keypad inlay and a right side button on either the right side of the housing or right side of the keypad inlay.

20. The keypad module of claim 19, wherein the first and second latches are released from the first and second catches, respectively, when the left and right side buttons are simultaneously depressed using an off-center keystroke on both the left and right side keys.

21. A portable communication device comprising:
- a plurality of keys;
  - a housing having a left side, a right side, a front side:
  - a keypad module configured to be attached to the housing and including a keypad inlay, a left side and a right side; and
- first and second latches that engage first and second catches, respectively, when the keypad inlay is attached to the housing, thereby securing the keypad inlay to the housing;
- wherein the first and second latches are released from the first and second catches, respectively, when at least two of the plurality of keys are simultaneously depressed, thereby releasing the keypad inlay from the housing.
22. A method of detaching a keypad module from a portable communication device having a housing plurality of keys, the keypad module including a keypad inlay, the method comprising:
- releasing the keypad inlay from the housing by simultaneously depressing at least two of the plurality of keys; and
  - separating the keypad inlay from the housing.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein the plurality of keys comprises a send key and an end key and releasing the keypad inlay from the housing by simultaneously depressing at least two of the plurality of keys, comprises simultaneously depressing the send key

and the end key.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein releasing the keypad inlay from the housing by simultaneously depressing at least two of the plurality of keys, comprises disengaging at least one latch from a respective at least one catch by simultaneously depressing at least two of the plurality of keys.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein releasing the keypad inlay from the housing by simultaneously depressing at least two of the plurality of keys, comprises simultaneously depressing at least two of the plurality of keys using an off-center keystroke on each of the at least two of the plurality of keys.